nection with 'Grow More Food' purpose have to be taken back on the expiry of the current licences, for afforestation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in the length of National highways

903. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative increase in the length of the National Highways in the country between 1984 and 1987 as against the targets, if any, stating the names of the States which have shown dismal progress in the construction of National Highways;

(b) what is the year-wise expenditure incurred on the construction of National Highways as against the outlay;

(c) what is the percentage of decline in the outlay between the Fifth and Seventh Plans stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Roads are declared as National Highways by the Central Government keeping the requirements of the country as a whole, subject to prescribed criteria and availability of resources. During the years 1984 to 1987, 618 Kms. of roads in the States of Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh only were included in the National Highways network.

Year	Development of N.Hs (Allotment) (Rs. in lakhs)	Expenditure reported by State Governments
1984-85 . .	17414.48	17081.24
1985-86 . .	21427.84	21385.05
1986-87 . .	27627.84	27781.11

(c) As against the allocation of Rs. 256.51 crores in the Fifth (1974—78) plan for the National Highways, the allocations for the 7th (1985—90) Plan was increased to Rs. 891.75 crores.

(d) The details as under:—

Year	Maintenance of N.—Hs. (Expenditure reported by States) (Rs. in lakhs)
1984-85	8150.88
1985-86	9619.46
1986-87	10424.63

Cuttack-Bhubaneshwar national highway No. 5

904. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accidents are on the increase due to the four laning work of Cuttack-Bhubaneshwar section in Orissa of National Highway No. 5 in that section;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to expedite the construction work; and